

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as set forth below.

**MODIFIED OLIGONUCLEOTIDES FOR MISMATCH DISCRIMINATION
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

~~Modified oligonucleotides are provided containing bases selected from~~ Methods
for designing an oligonucleotide sequence having a selected duplex stability are provided
wherein the oligonucleotide portion comprises at least one modified base selected from universal
bases, unsubstituted and 3-substituted pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidines and 5-substituted pyrimidines,
and optionally ~~[[have]]~~ having attached minor groove binders and reporter groups.